

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 IGA-02 MC-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ACDA-07 EB-07 SS-15 L-03 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7694

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9718

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, US, MASS, IT

SUBJECT: GOI TRANSFER OF M-47 TANKS TO PAKISTAN

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 9525, (B) ROME 14821

1. ODRP DISCUSSED M-47 TRANSFER REQUEST WITH BRIGADIER BADSHAH, DIRECTOR WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT, PAKISTAN ARMY. BADSHAH GAVE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND TO THE CASE.
 2. PAK ARMY HAS BEEN INTERESTED IN OBTAINING ADDITIONAL TURRETLESS TANKS TO BE CONVERTED INTO TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES. CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN PAKS HEARD ITALY MAY HAVE 30 M-47S AVAILABLE, THEY FORMALLY ASKED THE GOI IF PAKISTAN COULD OBTAIN THEM. THIS LED TO NOTE FROM ITALIAN MFA REQUESTING USG APPROVAL FOR TRANSFER.
 3. BADSHAH ASSURES US PAKISTAN WANTS THE TANKS ONLY IN A DEMILITARIZED AND TURRETLESS CONDITION. OUR VIEW IS THAT IF THE TANKS ARE TRANSFERRED IN THAT CONDITION, IT WOULD BE WELL WITHIN THE GUIDELINES OF OUR MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY. WHETHER USED AS TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES OR AS BRIDGING EQUIPMENT, THEY WOULD CLEARLY BE DEFENSIVE
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EQUIPMENT WITH NO OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY. OUR PERMISSION

TO THE BELGIANS TO SELL TURRETLESS M-47 TANKS TO THE
PAK ARMY ESTABLISHED THAT PRECEDENT.

4. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND WE INFORM BOTH THE GOP AND
GOI THAT WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE TRANSFER OF 30
M-47 TANKS ON THE SPECIFIC CONDITION THAT THEY BE
DEMILITARIZED AND TURRETLESS WHEN FORMALLY TRANSFERRED
TO THE GOP. OUR AGREEMENT CAN FOLLOW THE LINES OF THE
ONE WITH BELGIUM AND PAKISTAN CONCERNING THE M-47S WHICH
ARE GOING TO BE CONVERTED TO BRIDGING EQUIPMENT. AS IN
THAT AGREEMENT, WE SHOULD ALSO HAVE A PROVISION FOR OUR
ON-THE-SITE INSPECTION OF THE DEMILITARIZED AND TURRETLESS
TANKS ONCE THEY ARRIVE IN PAKISTAN.

5. PAK ARMY HAS PRESSING NEED FOR TANK RECOVERY VEHICLES
AND CONVERSION OF M-47S WILL GIVE PAKS AN INEXPENSIVE
AND EXPEDIENT WAY TO MEET THAT NEED. IF BOTH GOP AND
GOI ARE WILLING TO MEET CONDITIONS NOTED PARA 4,
WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD APPROVE THE TRANSFER.
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